

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method for producing multi-segment filters in the tobacco-processing industry comprising:

~~delivering filter rods or filter segments to form a group of filter segments; and~~
introducing a medium to ~~the filter rods, where the filter rods are cut into filter~~
segments after the medium introduction step and before the filter segments are delivered
to a group of filter segments, or introducing a medium to filter segments before
~~completion of the delivering step~~ the filter segments are delivered to a group of filter
segments,

wherein the medium is introduced during the continuous transport of the filter
rods or filter segments while the filter rods or filter segments are positioned on a
conveying drum or operating drum thereby preventing any interruption of the continuous
filter-production operation; and

delivering the filter segments to form a group of filter segments.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of delivering additional filter rods or filter segments to the formed group of filter segments.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the

delivering step includes either:

- a) transporting the filter rods or filter segments from a magazine to a module, or;
- b) transporting the filter rods or filter segments from a magazine through a module; and introducing the medium in the filter rods or filter segments during the transporting step.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the filter rods or filter segments are ~~held in place~~ secured before the medium is introduced.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein a predetermined amount of the medium is introduced.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the medium is introduced into the interior of the filter segments or filter rods by an introduction member ~~element for injecting the filter rod or segment or by an element for providing the medium to the outside of the filter rod or segment.~~

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 25, wherein the ~~element~~ introduction member is an injection needle or a spray nozzle.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the

medium is introduced parallel to the longitudinal axial direction of the filter segments or the filter rods.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the medium is introduced into at least one hollow space in a multifilter segment or a multifilter rod.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A module for a multi-segment filter ~~maker~~ machine in the tobacco-processing industry for a continuous filter-production operation, wherein filter segments ~~or filter rods can be~~ are delivered to ~~form~~ a group of filter segments and a device is provided for introducing a medium into the filter segments or filter rods,

said device introducing the medium while the filter segments are positioned on a conveying drum or operating drum before the filter segments are delivered to the group of filter segments thereby preventing any interruption to the continuous filter-production operation, or

said device introducing the medium while the filter rods are positioned on a conveying drum or operating drum before the filter rods are cut by means of a cutting device into filter segments which are delivered to the group of filter segments thereby preventing any interruption of the continuous filter-production operation.

Claims 30-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The module according to claim 29, wherein the

module comprises a holding element for holding the filter rods or the filter segments against the operating drum.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The module according to claim 29, wherein the device comprises an introduction member, which may be a spray nozzle or a spray needle for introducing the medium to the filter rods or filter segments.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The module according to claim 33, wherein the ~~injection element~~ introduction member is subjected to pressure by a compressed-air source or a piston.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The module according to claim 29, wherein a metering device is provided for the medium.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A multi-segment filter ~~maker~~ machine in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising ~~a~~ the device of claim 29.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (New): The method according to claim 18, wherein the medium is introduced into the interior of the filter segments or the filter rods from outside the interior by means of an introduction member.

Claim 39 (New): The method according to claim 38, wherein the introduction member is a spray nozzle.